

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

LIBRARY
R
★
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

FORMER 4-H CLUB MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE GOOD.

A radio talk by Nevels Pearson, Assistant State Club Leader, East Lansing, Michigan, delivered in the National 4-H Club radio program, National Farm and Home Hour, of Saturday, October 7, 1933, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

--ooOo--

In the eighteen years which have elapsed since Boys' and Girls' 4-H club work came into being, an army of over 300,000 boys and girls from the rural districts of Michigan have been taken into the 4-H fold. Similar developments have taken place in all of the states, but because of my familiarity with the program in our state, my illustrations will deal with Michigan 4-H Club members.

4-H Club work is an educational movement. Many of the club members in later life do not follow in the field of work in which they were interested as members. A potato club member may become a doctor. As a doctor he does not practice the things brought to him in his potato club work, but who knows, the very fact that he has worked with growing plants, endeavoring to prevent the ravages of insect pests and plant diseases, may have been a deciding factor in his becoming interested in the science of disease prevention.

However, there are many former 4-H members who have continued their interests along the lines represented in their club activities. I shall tell you of a few of them.

Leslie Jones of Cathro, Michigan, was intensely interested in craft work. During the five years that he was in handicraft club work, he made everything from a boot-jack to a vanity dresser. His excellent work placed him on the State Honor Roll for this project each of the five years that he was a member.

Last spring Leslie and his dad, dressed in overalls, came to the achievement day to see the county handicraft exhibit. They came at noon because both dad and son were busy on a contracting job. Mr. Jones proudly informed the leader in charge that Leslie and he were now in the contracting business. Yes, Leslie is making good.

Because of their ability as dairy judges, in 1924 three dairy club members -- Don Kline, Heath Holden and Henry Latson -- were selected as Michigan's 4-H Dairy Judging team to represent the state at the national contest. Later Henry Latson completed a two year short course at Michigan State College. He is farming in Washtenaw County and is the proud owner of a herd of Holstein cattle. Holden and Kline both worked their way through Michigan State College. Holden after graduating accepted a position as county agricultural agent in West Virginia. He has continued his interest for 4-H clubs by developing an extensive 4-H club program in his county. Donald Kline has been a teacher of vocational agriculture since graduation from college. He is now in a county without an agricultural agent, but along with his teaching work he has directed a program in 4-H Club work.

(over)

In the northwoods of Michigan about twelve years ago, a little white-haired girl by the name of Ingrid Mattson joined a 4-H clothing club. During the winter months she carried on this project. In the summer she busied herself with the 4-H Canning Club. In five years she had completed all of the work outlined for these projects. Then she launched into the poultry project with a determination to make good. In her four years in this project, working against many discouragements including the untimely death of her father, she not only succeeded but brought national recognition to herself and state.

With \$495.00 in scholarships secured as a result of her 4-H Club work, she entered Michigan State College in the fall of 1929. Working every bit of her way through college during the college year and summer vacations, this spring she completed her college course with honors. Miss Mattson has secured a position as a teacher in the schools of Kenton, Michigan. She has made good, and she will continue to do so.

As a 4-H garden club member in the city of Detroit, Morris Huberman became interested in nature study. Working his way through college and taking part in extra-curricular activities, he graduated with honors in the spring of 1931.

The day after graduation he entered the United States Forest Service. He continued in the Forest Service until September 1932 when, because of his outstanding work, he was given an opportunity through a fellowship to study for his Masters Degree in the school of Forestry at Yale University. This spring he returned to the United States Forest Service and is continuing to make good.

The same type of experiences could be related about thousands of other 4-H Club members. The former 4-H club members who were in the 4-H fold and the thousands who are now carrying on have always before them the meaningful 4-H Motto, "Make the best better." With that as a guide these young people will make good. Let us extend the opportunities to more of the rural youth of the country.

####